



Standards & Assessment UPDATE

California Department of Education
Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

March 2007

Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

California Modified Assessment

At the March 7, 2007, State Board of Education (SBE) meeting, the California Department of Education (CDE) submitted the California Modified Assessment (CMA) blueprints for approval; however, the SBE did not take action. Instead, the SBE directed the staff and the CMA test contractor to conduct focus groups with stakeholders and to make a recommendation regarding criteria and guidance to determine the student population appropriate for the CMA. The CMA will be a topic at a special SBE meeting in April. For additional information, please refer to <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/documents/mar07item7.doc> of the March 2007, SBE Agenda on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/agenda0307.asp>.

California High School Exit Examination

Intensive Instruction Funding

In 2006, Assembly Bill (AB) 1802 authorized the CDE to allocate \$5,500,000 to local educational agencies (LEAs) for the purchase of SBE-approved, individualized, intervention materials for students who have not passed the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE).

After the Invitation to Submit Intervention Materials for the CAHSEE on November 17, 2006, seven submissions met the requirements. The technical

evaluation took place on January 23-24, 2007, in Sacramento. At its March 7, 2007, meeting, the SBE approved three CAHSEE individualized, intervention material submissions including Peoples Education, Measuring Up; Grow, MyGuide; Revolution, Revolution Prep.

The apportionment to the LEAs is scheduled to be disbursed in mid-May of this year. These funds may only be used to purchase these SBE-approved individualized, intervention materials.

For additional information and a summary of the evaluating groups' comments, please refer to <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/documents/mar07item4.doc> of the March 2007, SBE Agenda on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/agenda0307.asp>.

Amendments to Title 5 California Code of Regulations

At its March 7, 2007, meeting, SBE approved the commencement of the rulemaking process for proposed amendments to the Title 5 *California Code of Regulations*.

California Code of Regulations, Title 5, for the CAHSEE serves to guide LEAs in the administration of the examination and the reporting of student demographic data to the State. The CDE proposes amendments to the *California Code of Regulations*, Title 5, for the CAHSEE in response to various needs that have arisen over the course of administering the

CAHSEE, as well as current law that requires LEAs to report data pertaining to students with disabilities. The primary purposes of the proposed amendments are to:

- Introduce a fee for LEAs that order excessive test materials.
- Require LEAs to submit unlisted accommodations and modifications to CDE for review and approval.
- Require charter schools to annually designate whether they will test as part of their chartering district or county office of education.
- Clarify the number of times students may take the CAHSEE in each grade.
- Permit grade 11 students to take the CAHSEE in successive administrations.
- Add demographic data elements collected for each student.
- Specify data reporting requirements and deadlines for exemption and local waiver.

As part of the rulemaking process, there will be a public hearing beginning at 1:00 p.m. on May 7, 2007, at 1430 N Street, Room 1101, Sacramento. (The room is wheelchair accessible.) At the hearing, any person may present statements or arguments, orally or in writing, relevant to the proposed action described in the Informative Digest.

Any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action to:

Debra Strain, Regulations Coordinator
LEGAL DIVISION
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5319
Sacramento, California 95814

Comments may also be submitted by facsimile (FAX) at (916) 319-0155 or by e-mail at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/documents/mar07item5.doc>. Comments must be received by the Regulations Coordinator prior to 5:00 p.m. on May 7, 2007.

For additional information on the above mentioned, please refer to Item 5 of the March 2007, SBE Agenda on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/agenda0307.asp>.

CAHSEE and Senate Bill 267

During the 2005-06 legislative session, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law, Senate Bill 267, which enacted *Education Code* Section 60852.4. This new law contained two primary provisions: (1) allowing certain students with disabilities in the Class of 2007 who met a series of seven criteria to receive an exemption of the CAHSEE requirement and (2) required that by June 1, 2007, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the approval of the state board, recommend to the Legislature a course of action to adopt regarding pupils with disabilities who have met all other state and local graduation requirements, but who are unable to satisfy the CAHSEE requirement or obtain a waiver of the requirement under *Education Code* Section 60851(c).

The following are the CDE's courses of action for the CAHSEE for students with disabilities who have met all other graduation requirements to be considered by the SBE:

- Maintain the CAHSEE requirement for all students.
- Make changes to CAHSEE waiver process (*Education Code* 60851[c]).
- Develop a state endorsed certificate of completion.
- Develop a juried assessment.

- Allow compensatory scoring of a standard CAHSEE form.
- Create on-demand CAHSEE strand tests.
- Create CAHSEE alternative assessment.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction will make a recommendation to the SBE at its May meeting regarding what course of action to recommend to the legislation.

To read the given descriptions, estimated costs, benefits and challenges of each of the seven considerations, please refer to <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/documents/mar07item3.doc> of the March 2007, SBE Agenda on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/agenda0307.asp>.

More information...

For more information about any of the mentioned SBE items, access the SBE agenda on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr07/agenda0307.asp>.